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:: THE W5YI REPORT ::
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:: D i t s & B i t s ::
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:: HamNet Electronic Edition ::
:: CompuServe's Ham/SWL Forum ::
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Up to the minute news from the worlds of amateur radio, personal computing and emerging electronics. While no guarantee is made, information is from sources we believe to be reliable. May be reproduced providing credit is given to The W5YI Report.

This HamNet Electronic Edition is a limited excerpt from the full published edition of The W5YI Report. Selected and prepared by Scott, W3VS.

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IMPORTANT Note: Some of the material included in The W5YI Report - Electronic Edition may not be suitable for transmission via Amateur Radio.

In this issue:

- FCC Pushes On With No-Code
- Hams Assist in Hurricane Aftermath

HamNet thanks Fred Maia, W5YI, for permission to excerpt this Electronic Edition of his W5YI Report. The full ten-page biweekly newsletter is available by mail for \$23 per year from Fred at Dept. C, PO Box 565101, Dallas, TX 75356-5101. Samples available for a 2 stamp large SASE.

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Do you have Amateur Radio news to contribute to The W5YI Report? If so, please call (817) 461-6443 and leave a message on Fred's recorder!

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o FCC to Consider Ham Restructuring

The FCC's Private Radio Bureau forwarded twelve Petitions for Rule Making to the Office of the Secretary with instructions that they be assigned Rule Making numbers. These twelve petitions contain various proposals for restructuring either the classes of operator licenses in the Amateur Radio Service or the qualifying requirements for such licenses or both.

On September 14th, the FCC Secretary's office circulated a Public Notice (Report No. 1974) entitled "Petitions for Rulemaking Filed" asking the public whether the Commission should further proceed towards amateur restructuring. The assigning of RM file numbers and the circulation of a Public Notice is the important first step toward an anticipated Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM).

Interested parties should now file a statement in support of or in opposition to further consideration of this issue. If it is decided that the petitions have merit, the bureau chief's staff will prepare a draft of an NPRM for review by the Commissioners. The bureau chief in this case is Ralph Haller, also an Extra Class amateur, N4RH. He is well versed in amateur affairs having spent a good deal of his government career as an FCC engineer out in the field.

If the Commissioners agree with their staff's appraisal, then a docket number will be assigned and the NPRM will be released to the public for comment. The Notice of Proposed Rule Making will set forth a description of the issues involved and will propose new rules. There undoubtedly will also be questions on which the FCC will ask for detailed observations. It is at this stage (and ONLY at this stage) that further specific recommendations should be made by interested persons. Thus the NPRM is really the beginning of the public debate. We are not yet at this bargaining point and it is inappropriate to file specific counter proposals at this time.

What to Do Now!

The FCC is now looking for a show of support (or opposition) to their going forward on the proposals to restructure the Amateur Radio Service to include a code-free license. You and/or your ham club should file a declaration with the FCC as follows:

Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, DC 20554

In the Matter of)

)	
A Class of Operator License)	
In the Amateur Radio Service)	RM 6984 through 6995
That Does Not Require a)	
Demonstration of Proficiency)	
in Morse Telegraphy)	

DECLARATION OF SUPPORT (or OPPOSITION)

On September 14, the Federal Communications Commission gave public notice of the filing of RM-6984 through 6995, Petitions for Rule Making. These petitions contain various proposals for restructuring either the classes of operator licenses in the Amateur Radio service or the qualifying requirements for such licenses or both.

We believe that continued growth in the Amateur Radio Service would be promoted (hindered) by the modification or creation of a class of operator license that does not require a demonstration of Morse code proficiency as a qualifying element. To the extent that the captioned petitions propose such an Amateur Radio operator licesne, we submit this declaration of support (or opposition), pursuant to Section 1.405(a) of the Commission's Rules.

Signed: _____

Include your name/call sign/address/date - and club affiliation if applicable. You may also include a short - not to exceed one paragraph - stated as to why you feel the petitions should be further considered. Again, the time to get into a debate on the details is at the NPRM stage. All you are indicating now is that the petitions should go forth and a Notice of Proposed Rule Making issued. The FCC must receive your declaraction on/before October 14.

o Red Cross Sends Hams to Caribbean

We interviewed Mike Riley/KX1B, who directs all radio communications for the American Red Cross (ARC) in Washington. Riley was visiting with Red Cross chapters in Ohio, gathering information for the Red Cross Communicator Training Guide when ARC HQ called him back abruptly to help with the hurricane Hugo emergency.

"We experienced a massive communications problem" when telephone service in the islands was cut off, Rile told us. "We dispatched ARC volunteer hams fro Dayton and Erie (Pa) to the Caribbean. They are in San Juan, PR now and will be deployed shortly to the other islands: two to St. Thomas, two to St. Croix and one to stay in San

Juan. We also sent an individual to Antigua. In addition to a Kenwood TS-440, he has a satellite station operating through the INMARSAT system and the ATS-3 Applications Technology Satellite."

"The purpose of this team is to provide emergency and priority communications out of the affected areas to the ARC. No Disaster Welfare inquiry information is being handled at this time, as there is a nationwide moratorium on acceptance of such traffic. We simply don't have the resources to handle welfare inquiries. It's impossible to say when the moratorium will be lifted."

"The FCC has granted us Special Temporary Authority (STA) to operate on a frequency outside the 20 m band. The STA may be terminated at 2359 Oct. 5 or prior to that date if appropriate."

KX1B emphasized that it is not an Amateur Service frequency and is not available to amateurs not associated with the ARC net. The ARC is supplying the FCC with all of the callsigns of stations authorized in the STA operation so that Commission monitors can quickly identify violators.

"We are working closely with the ARRL. There are about 12 stations on our initial authorization list, including W1AW, W1INF (ARRL HQ Club Station), KI4T in Florida (chairman of ARRL Emergency Communications Advisory Committee) and W4HFH at the Alexandria (Va.) Red Cross." W4HFH, operated by the Alexandria Radio Club, has been the ARC HQ's representative to the various HF nets operating through the emergency on 14.313 and 14.303 MHz.

The ARC National HQ station is still under construction. Currently it is using a Yaesu 747. Several manufacturers have agreed to donate ham gear to the project. ICOM is delivering IC-781 and IC-765 HF transceivers. Butternut Electronics and MFJ will also donate equipment.

[End this issue]